



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

#1458

1028
(Estimate)

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For release to PM's, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1950

FWS TO PARTICIPATE IN BALTIMORE RAT CONTROL CONFERENCE

The most up-to-date information on how to control rats and mice will be presented by leading biologists, public health officials, and other outstanding authorities in that field during the second Baltimore Rodent Control Conference to be held from October 9 to 11 in Baltimore, Maryland, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman said today.

The Department of the Interior will participate through its Fish and Wildlife Service which is sponsoring the conference in cooperation with the Baltimore City Health Department, Secretary Chapman said. Most States and the larger cities east of the Mississippi will be represented by their sanitary engineers or health commissioners. All interested Federal agencies will also send their representatives.

The first Baltimore Rat Control Conference, held in 1948, was inspired by the National Urban Rat Control Campaign which the Department of the Interior spearheaded for five months in that year and in which 631 cities participated. This second conference is the outgrowth of the increased public interest aroused by the organized programs to exterminate the grain-eating, disease-spreading rodents.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss the new materials and new techniques now being employed in order that they may be thoroughly understood by all in attendance. The program is planned largely as a series of panel discussions. Considerable time will be devoted to the organization and development of plans for the improvement of local projects.

The meetings, which will be held in the Emerson Hotel, will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 9, with Dr. Huntington Williams, Baltimore Commissioner of Health, presiding. Short introductory and welcome talks will follow by the Hon. Thomas D'Alessandro, Jr., Mayor of Baltimore; Dr. Robert H. Riley, Director of the Maryland State Department of Health; and David R. Gascoyne, Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service from Boston, Mass.

Fish and Wildlife Service specialists scheduled to present papers during the technical sessions include Walter W. Dykstra and John C. Jones, of Washington, D. C.; Howard A. Merrill, of Boston, Mass.; E. M. Mills, of New Brunswick, N. J.; and Galen Oderkirk, of Lafayette, Indiana.

Two field workshops, one conducted by the Baltimore City Health Department on environmental sanitation and ratproofing, and the other by the Baltimore Department of Public Works demonstrating the city's refuse disposal system, will be features of the conference.